**Water Quality of Mobile Bay**

Dissolved oxygen is expressed as milligrams of oxygen per liter of water. This has a huge impact on an ecosystem. Oxygen is an import factor in an ecosystem. Without oxygen aquatic life cannot thrive. Our pollution can lower the quality of dissolved oxygen having a negative effect on the ecosystems it enters.

Ph is a measurement of the acidity or basicity of water. It’s based on a scale of 1 to 14 with one being acidic and 14 being basic. Although most water is already slightly acidic, pollution can raise the acidity greatly. Animals that consume this water and the aquatic life in the water can suffer severely with this change. If we do not cut back on pollution, entire ecosystems will be affected.

Turbidity is the measure of the clarity of water which is determined by the amount of suspended sediments in the water. Turbidity is not directly connected with pollution but surface runoff from construction sites can cause the water to become cloudy. Fertilizers can also affect the turbidity, allowing the excessive growth of phytoplankton.

**Mobile Bay Results:**

pH = good

Turbidity = good

Dissolved Oxygen = poor

\* Nutrient pollution is a main cause for oxygen depletion. These nutrients spur the rabid growth of algae. Once this algae dies, it is decomposed by bacteria, which depletes the oxygen level. So if we cut back on fertilizers and other nutrient pollution we will help raise the amount of oxygen dissolved in Mobile Bay.